

In the Claims:

- 1       1. (Original) Semifinished product of composite material,  
2           consisting of a metallic matrix material (11) and of high  
3           tensile strength fibers (12) embedded in the matrix  
4           material (11), whereby the metallic matrix material (11) is  
5           formed of titanium or a titanium based alloy, characterized  
6           in that ceramic particles (13) are encased or embedded in  
7           the matrix material (11) for increasing the strength of the  
8           semifinished product with respect to torsional loading or  
9           transverse loading.
  
- 1       2. (Original) Semifinished product according to claim 1,  
2           characterized in that the embedded ceramic particles (13)  
3           comprise a size in the micron range to the nanometer range.

Claims 3 to 5 (Canceled).

- 1       6. (Original) Method for the production of a semifinished  
2           product (10) of composite material, in which fibers (12)  
3           that are of high tensile strength as well as coated  
4           metallically namely with titanium or a titanium based alloy  
5           are consolidated under the influence of pressure at high  
6           temperature to form the semifinished product (10),  
7           characterized in that in connection with the coating of the

8       high tensile strength fibers (12) with titanium or the  
9       titanium based alloy, ceramic particles (13) are embedded  
10      in the coating of the fibers, whereby the thusly coated  
11      fibers are arranged in a desired geometry and consolidated  
12      to form the semifinished product.

1       7. (Original) Method according to claim 6, characterized in  
2       that the coating of the high tensile strength fibers (12)  
3       with titanium or the titanium based alloy is carried out  
4       under a reactive atmosphere.

1       8. (Original) Method according to claim 7, characterized in  
2       that the coating of the high tensile strength fibers (12)  
3       with titanium or the titanium based alloy is carried out  
4       under a nitrogen atmosphere, whereby nitrogen atoms  
5       together with titanium particles or particles of the  
6       titanium based alloy deposit ceramic particles (13) into  
7       the coating.

1       9. (Original) Method according to claim 8, characterized in  
2       that ceramic particles (13) in the form of titanium  
3       nitrides are deposited into the coating.

Claim 10 (Canceled).

[REMARKS FOLLOW ON NEXT PAGE]